

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV BR PE
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BRAZIL

REF: BRASILA 4265

1. SUMMARY. PERUVAIN FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE DE LA PUENTE JULY 16
COMPLETED TWO DAY VISIT TO BRAZIL FOR THE FOURTH MEETING
OF THE PERUVIAN-BRAZILIAN MIXED COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC
AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. LA PUENTE MET WITH PRESIDENT
GEISEL AND SIGNED THREE AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOB IMPLEMENTING
PROJECTS INITIATED DURING THE NOVEMBER 1976 MORALES-BERMUDEZ
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-GEISEL TALKS. PERUVIAN MINISTER ALSO HELD
DISCUSSIONS WITH SILVEIRA ABOUT BRAZIL'S PROPOSED AMAZON PACT.
BRAZILIANS ARE PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT WHICH THEY SEE
AS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS GREATER REGIONAL AGREEMENT. END
SUMMARY.

2. LA PUENTE AND SILVEIRA SIGNED THREE MEASURES IMPLEMENTING

AGREEMENTS PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND GEISEL MADE DURING THE NOVEMBER 1976, AMAZON RIVER TALKS. PRIMARY MEASURE IS A TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH GUARANTEES BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, SOME MINERALS AND MANUFACTURED GOODS TO PERU IN EXCHANGE FOR PERUVIAN NON-FERROUS METALS, FEW MANUFACTURED ITEMS AND FISH PRODUCTS. TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS ALSO SIGNED A TROPICAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND SET UP A JOINT SUB-COMMISSION ON THE AMAZON REGION WHICH WILL MEET ANNUALLY AND SEEK TO NORMALIZE TRADE AND MOVEMENT ACROSS THEIR COMMON FRONTIER.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS NOTEWORTHY FOR PERU'S AFFIRMATION OF ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GOB'S PROPOSED AMAZON PACT. PERUVIANS ALSO ACCEPTED BRAZILIAN LANGUAGE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AFFIRMING PRINCIPLE OF "PERMANENT AND ANALIENABLE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH STATE OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES". ESTADO HEADLINED THAT INCLUSION OF ITME IN COMMUNIQUE DEMONSTRATED TACIT PERUVIAN SUPPORT FOR BRAZILIAN POSITION IN ITS DISPUTE WITH ARGENTINA OVER PARANA RIVER PROJECTS.

4. IN PRESS CONFERENCE LA PUENTE MADE CLEAR THAT POTENTIAL AMAZON PACT MEMBERS WERE RESPONDING TO AN IDEA AND THAT ACTIVE DIALOGUE LEADING TO A TREATY WAS ONLY BEGINNING. HE ADDED THAT EXPERTS STUDYING COOPERATIVE BASIS FOR AMAZON PACT SHOULD BEGIN MEETING WITHIN TWO MONTHS. RE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, LA PUENTE NOTED MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING BRAZIL HAD REACT TO HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, BUT PERU CONSIDERED PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS "FUNDAMENTAL", FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED FOR POLITICAL ACTION HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD TO BE COMPLEMENTED BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES. LA PUENTE ALSO SPOKE TO QUESTION OF BRAZIL'S ROLE ON CONTINENT, DESCRIBING BRAZIL AS A COUNTRY-CONTINENT AND ONLY COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA THAT COULD COMPETE WITH THE US. HE EXPRESSED DOBT, HOWEVER, THAT BRAZIL WAS INTERESTED IN PRE-DOMINATING IN THE REGION.

5. PRESS ANALYSIS IN JORNAL DO BRAZIL SAID VISIT WAS SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS "CONSOLIDATION OF A POLITICAL BRIDGE...ALREADY DELINEATED" BY TWO PRESIDENTS LAST NOVEMBER. JORNAL CONCLUDED THAT ITAMARATY NOW VIEWED FRIENDSHIP WITH PERU AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. ESTADO SAW MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE VISIT AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONCRETE BASIS FOR AN AMAZON PACT AND THE CONTINUATION OF RAPPROACHMENT THAT BEGAN TWENTY GOB AND PERU WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ COMING TO POWER.

6. COMMENT: SILVEIRA'S SPECIAL ADVISER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS, JOSE NOGUEIRA FILHO CONFIRMED TOEMBOFF BEFORE VISIT THAT ITAMARATY HAD CIRCULARIZED POTENTIAL AMAZON PACT MEMBERS WITH A SECOND LETTER (REFTEL) PROPOSING FRAMEWORK FOR A TREATY, AND THAT LA

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WOULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE LA PUENTE VISIT. SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SILVEIRA, HOLANDA CAVALCANTI TOLD SENIOR EMBASSY AFTER VISIT THAT IT HAD GONE WELL FROM GOB PERSPECTIVE AND THAT GOB WAS SATISFIED WITH AGREEMENTS SIGNED AND DISCUSSIONS WITH PERUVIANS ABOUT PROPOSED PACT. RESULTS OF VISIT STRIKE US AS MORE MEANINGFUL FOR EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IN THE AMAZON THAN FOR MOVEMENT TOWARDS A REGIONAL MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT. WHILE THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT MAY BE HELPFUL TO BRAZIL IN PROMOTING AN AMAZON PACT WITH OTHER REGIONAL STATES, AMAZON COOPERATION BETWEEN PERU AND BRAZIL WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO MATERIALIZE WITH OR WITHOUT THE VEHICLE OF A BROADER REGIONAL TREATY.

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7. SPEAKING IN BROADER TERMS, CAVALCANTI STRESSED THAT WHOLE IDEA OF AN EVENTUAL AMAZON PACT IS STILL IN CONCEPTUAL STAGE. HE SAID BRAZIL IS NOT NECESSARILY THINKING IN TERMS OF FORMAL AGREEMENT PATTERNED AFTER PLATE BASIN TREATY, AT LEAST IN SHORT RUN, BUT THAT EVENTUAL PACT MIGHT BE FORGED FROM SERIES OF INFORMAL "ARRANGEMENTS" AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES THAT WOULD LEAD TO REGULATION OF EXPLOITATION OF REGIONS'S RESOURCES AND PROTECTION OF ITS ECOLOGY.

8. SHORTLY AFTER PERUVIAN VISIT, PRESS CARRIED CARACAS COMMENT BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO EFFECT THAT BRAZIL'S PROPOSAL FOR AN AMAZON PACT WAS "A GOOD INITIATIVE" WHICH VENEZUELA WOULD STUDY WITH CARE. VENEZUELA HAD BEEN ONLY AMAZON COUNTRY WHICH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED BRAZILIAN INITIATIVE.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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